Module 3~ COMMUNITY OBSERVER'S AUTHORITY



Neighbors helping neighbors keep their community safe and secure

Purpose

 Provide information on the limits of your authority while volunteering as a SNAP community observer.



Learning Objectives

- Describe a community observer's role
- Describe a community observer's legal liability
- Describe a community observer's authority



Community Observer's Role

- Eyes and Ears <u>ONLY</u>
- Observes and Reports
- Not law enforcement officers or Military Police volunteers
- Not vigilantes
- Should **NOT** become involved with suspicious persons or
 - suspected criminals
- Avoid confrontation, and/or arguments with people

Community Observers' Liability

- Community observers <u>do not have protection</u> against criminal or civil liability under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)
- Community observers may be individually liable for criminal and civil charges if they exceed their authority



Sign memorandum for acknowledgement of USAREUR SNAP Community Observer Responsibilities and Liabilities

Community Observers' Authority

- As a community observer volunteer you have absolutely no police powers or powers of apprehension over anyone, beyond that of a private citizen.
- As a commissioned or non-commissioned officer, there are some powers of apprehension over persons who are subject to the Uniformed Code of Military Justice -However, such application is strongly discouraged!!! -Remember, as a community observer, your role is to

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